

Chair's report for 2023

Season's greetings

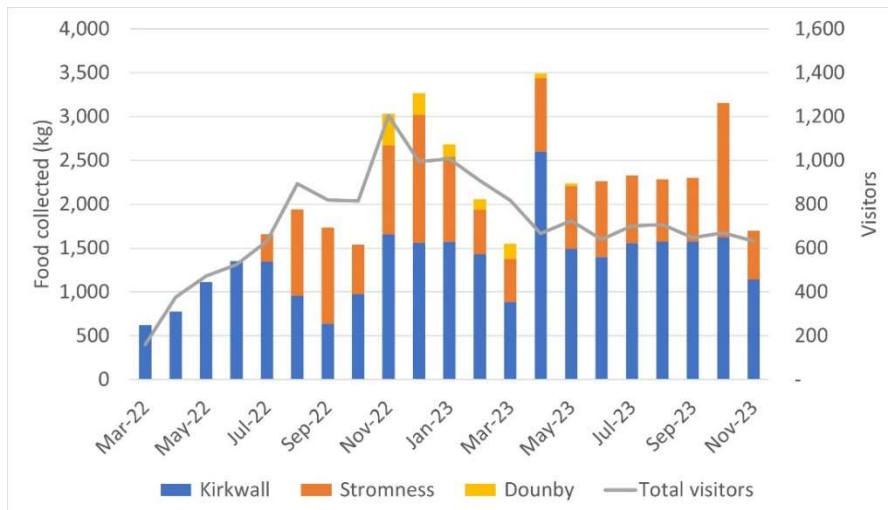


On behalf of all the trustees, I wish all our volunteers and members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

Community Fridges

We are still getting new volunteers for the community fridges in Kirkwall and Stromness and while we are still discussing possible future arrangements with Asda regarding the former Dounby Co-op, in the meantime we would be pleased to hear from any new volunteers in the Dounby area. The volume of food does vary from week to week but overall has been steady over the last few months.

Our primary aim however is to stop food from going into landfill and by the end of November 2023 we had saved over 43 tonnes of food and made it available through the community fridges. That is the equivalent of over 100,000 meals or 5 meals for every person in Orkney.



We offer a huge thankyou to all our volunteers and especially to those who assist with collecting the food from the wholesalers and keeping the community fridges clean and tidy.

Do please visit us at one of the community fridges over the Christmas period. Here are the opening hours:



Date	Kirkwall	Stromness
Saturday, 23 December	12:00-2:00	12:00-2:00 and 8:30-9:00
Sunday, 24 December	6:30-7:00	6:30-7:00
Monday, 25 December	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday, 26 December	6:30-7:00	6:30-7:00
Wednesday, 27 December	8:30-9:00	12:00-2:00 and 8:30-9:00
Thursday, 28 December	12:00-2:00 and 8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00
Friday, 29 December	8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00
Saturday, 30 December	12:00-2:00	12:00-2:00 and 8:30-9:00
Sunday, 31 December	6:30-7:00	6:30-7:00
Monday, 1 January	CLOSED	6:30-7:00
Tuesday, 2 January	6:30-7:00	8:30-9:00

- All opening times subject to availability of food
- No Christmas opening at Dounby

Slow Cooker Project

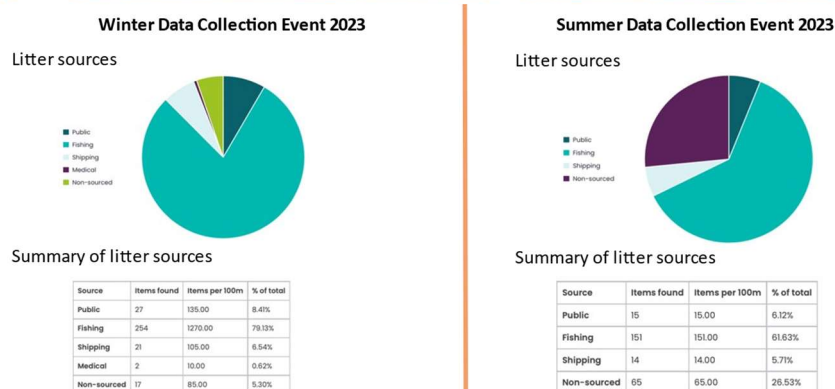
During the last winter we received a grant of £8,000 from the Local Development Fund to provide slow cookers to anyone in Orkney who asked for one. In addition to giving out over 300 slow cookers we also gave out 140 recipe books and ran a monthly competition for the best slow cooker recipe. Many thanks to Angela Fitzpatrick who organised the project and to Tesco who provided the slow cookers at a reduced price.

Beach Cleans and Data Collections

Without Greener Orkney as an active participant in the Scottish Islands Federation Marine Litter Working Group, we wouldn't have had a Northern Isles Marine Litter Development Officer to support the data collections at beach cleans. Data collection samples provide important evidence as they support lobbying to redesign products which contribute to marine litter. We work closely with the Marine Conservation Society to provide data samples and document results. In 2023 Greener Orkney organised 27 beach cleans and many thanks to all our volunteers who helped us.

Although Greener Orkney arranges the beach cleans and provides equipment, we are always pleased to see casual volunteers at any event. Going forwards we want to do more to encourage people to 'adopt a beach' and to work with local organisations on the circular economy. We are also exploring outlets for reuse of the large quantities of ropes and other plastic things found on the beaches.

Scapa beach clean- data comparison



Bag the Bruck

This was the first year that we have organised Bag the Bruck and it was an excellent way to raise our profile. We were assisted this year by Shona Garson, Anna Gibb and Mark Vincent from OIC waste department and Scottish Sea Farms. We sent out 820 bags and 2000 gloves to 11 schools, 6 businesses, 25 community groups and 21 individuals and in total had 63 events.

We received £500 in funding from Cooke Aquaculture and most of the building suppliers provided gloves.

County Show and the Refillery

We shared a tent at the County Show in August with Orkney Zero Waste and gave out over 60 questionnaires about a possible refillery. The results were very much in favour of having one in Orkney and planning is going ahead to progress this and hopefully to open next year in 2024 in Stromness.